



Environmental Justice, Health Disparities and EPHT

Setting the Stage

Environmental Justice

- The focus of EJ is the widely documented phenomenon that a disproportionate number of environmental hazards are found in neighborhoods of racial and ethnic minorities and low income populations.
 - Less political clout
 - Source of jobs
 - Lower property values
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Environmental Justice

- There follows the assumption that such proximity to environmental hazards results in increased exposure.
 - And that such exposure results in negative health effects.
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Health Disparities

- It is also widely documented that there are disparities in the occurrence of several chronic diseases between members of racial and ethnic minorities and more advantaged populations.
 - Genetic differences
 - Nutritional and behavioral
 - Access to and level of health care
 - Environmental exposure?
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Health Disparities

- Some poisonings and chronic diseases for which there are health disparities have an environmental component.
 - Cancer
 - Cardiovascular Disease
 - Asthma
 - Pesticide Poisoning
 - Lead Poisoning
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Environmental Public Health Tracking

- Linking
 - Environmental hazards
 - Exposures
 - Health effects
 - With geographical location and time information
 - Should give us information about health and environment in specific local areas.
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EPHT

- What can we do to address the issues of environmental justice and health disparities in EPHT?
 - Outreach
 - Planning
 - Data linkage
 - Database gathering
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Outreach

- Identify community groups
 - Native Americans, immigrants, inner city poor, rural populations, communities of color, uninsured, any underserved population
 - Identify advocates for communities
 - Health boards, clinics, advocacy groups, agencies, CBOs
 - Invite and involve communities and advocates in planning
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Planning

- Ask “What will be useful to you?”
 - Include community concerns in surveillance, linkage projects
 - Identify specific health and environmental issues of underserved populations
 - Provide for accessibility to data
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Data Linkage

- Link at the individual level
 - Race, SES in health records
 - Local environmental data
 - Link at the community level
 - How define community?
 - Census tract level data
 - Other
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Database Gathering

- Consider the coverage of available databases
 - Whole range of population?
 - Segments left out?
 - Keep EJ/HD in our inquiry
 - When choosing databases for linkage
 - For future policy activities around surveillance
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Action Plan

- How to continue the EJ/HD dialogue
 - How to provide support and inspiration for including EJ/HD in our programs
 - What can each of us do? What can we do together?
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